CDMM Tutorial

JDownloader 2 Installation and Basic Use

Tutorial by
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CDMM, 2025

CDMM
Centre for Digital Methods and Media
https://cc.au.dk/cdmm/

Introduction

This tutorial will show you

- how to install Java and JDownloader 2,
- a basic introduction to the interface,
- how to use JDownloader 2 for downloading videos from YouTube

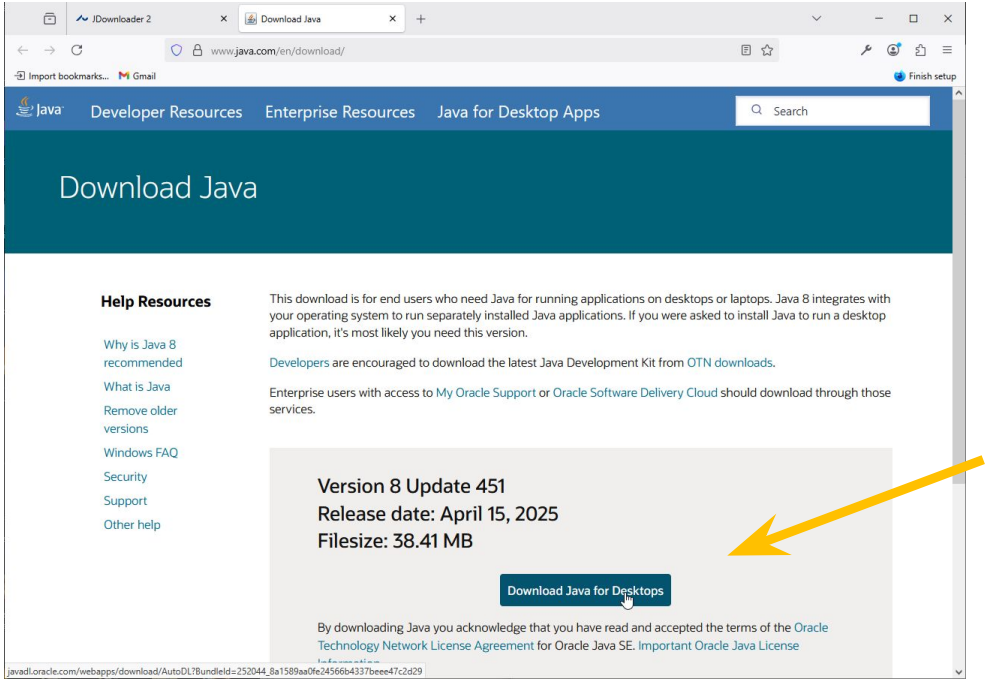
The tutorial can also be downloaded as PDF.

Installing Java

JDownloader 2 is based on Java programming and needs the Java runtime environment. Unless you know that you already have the latest version of Java on your computer, start by going to:

https://www.java.com/en/download/

Installing Java



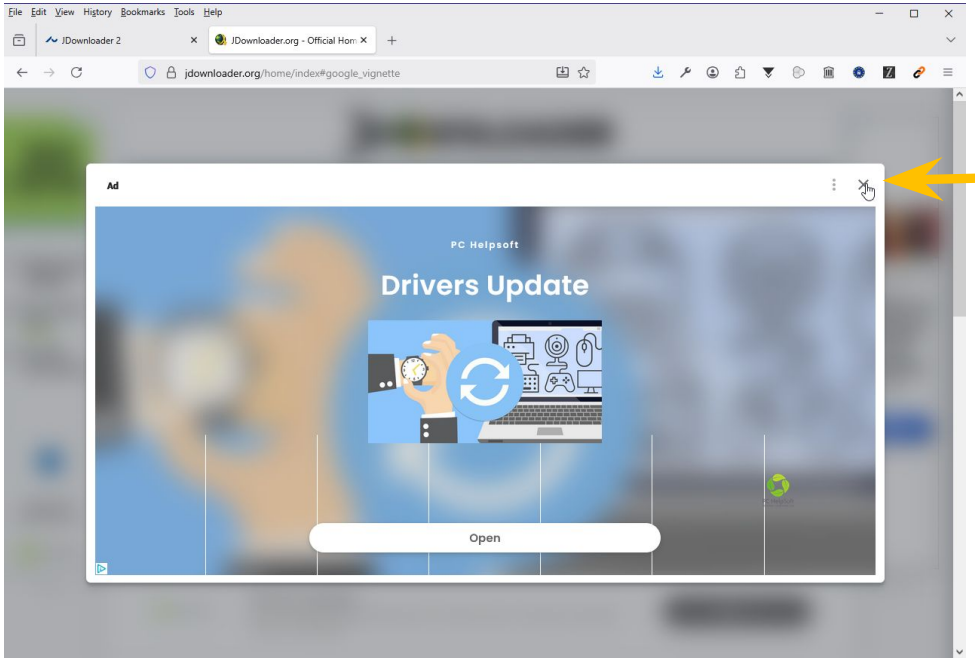
Download and run the Java installation file.

Installing Java

When the installation finishes you have a fully updated version of Java ready on you computer.

Installing JDownloader 2

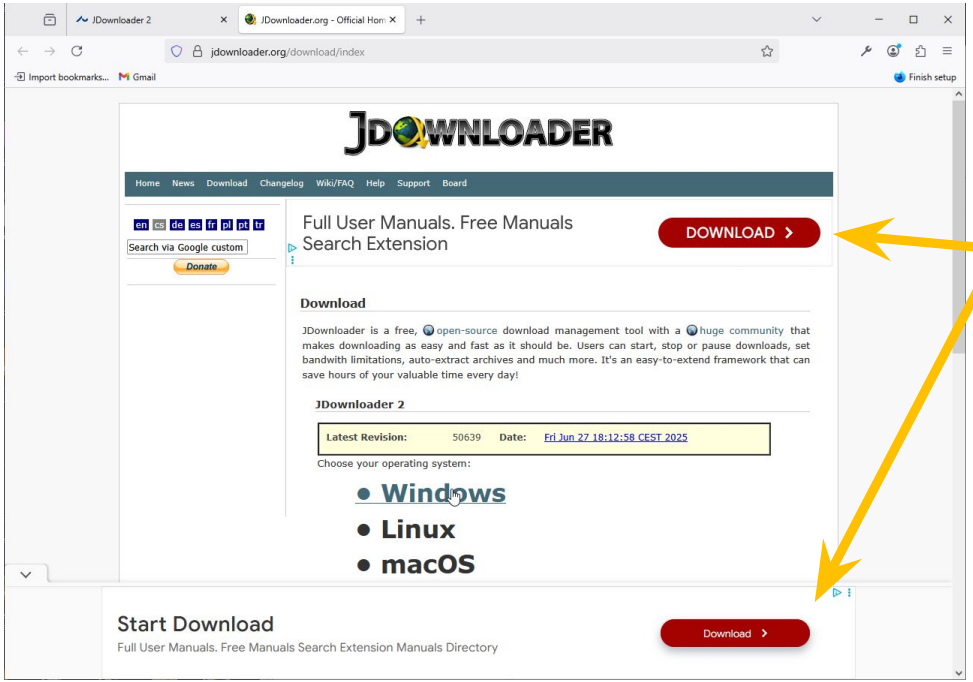
Go to: https://jdownloader.org/download/index



Depending on your browser and setup you may get ad pop-ups. They have nothing to do with your installation and it is recommended to ignore and close them.

Installing JDownloader 2

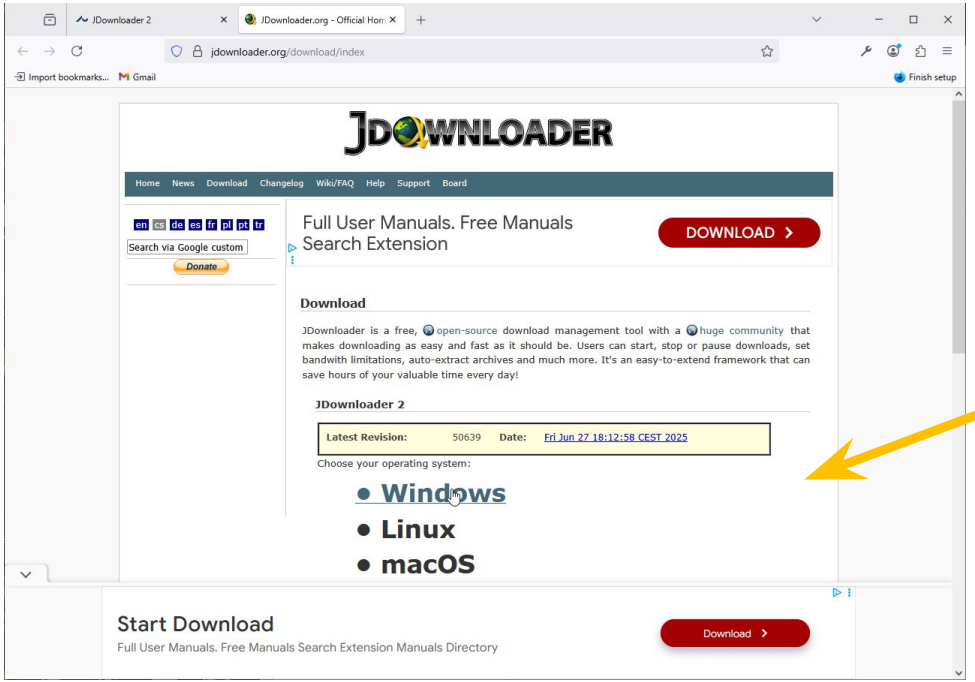
These are first steps. You need to follow another link before downloading



Carefully ignore advertisements showing ”download” buttons or offers.

Installing JDownloader 2

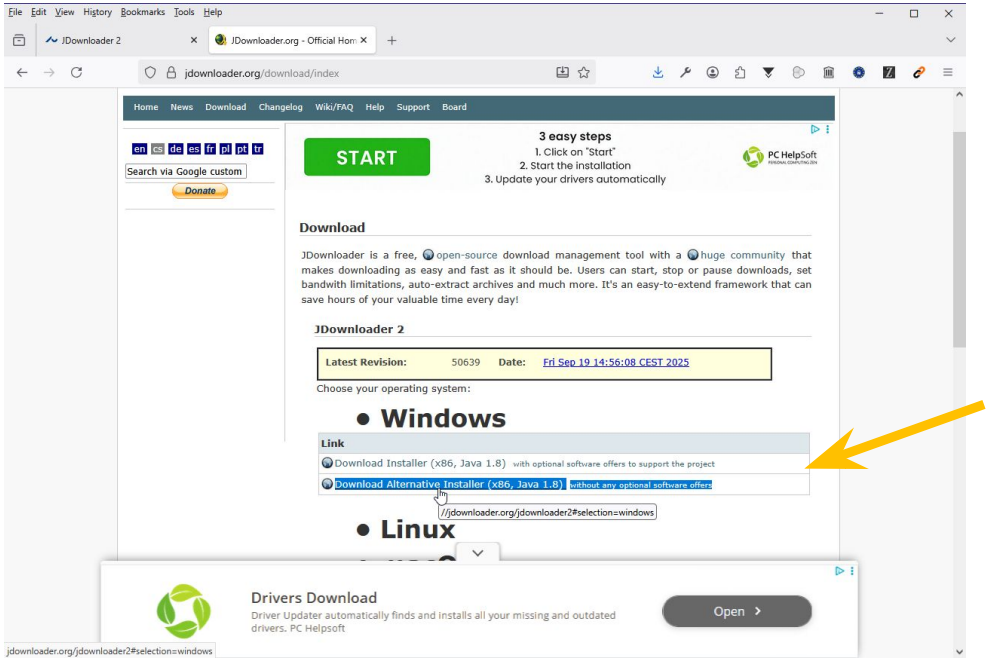
These are first steps. You need to follow another link before downloading



Click on the OS that you need to install to.

Installing JDownloader 2

These are first steps. You need to follow another link before downloading

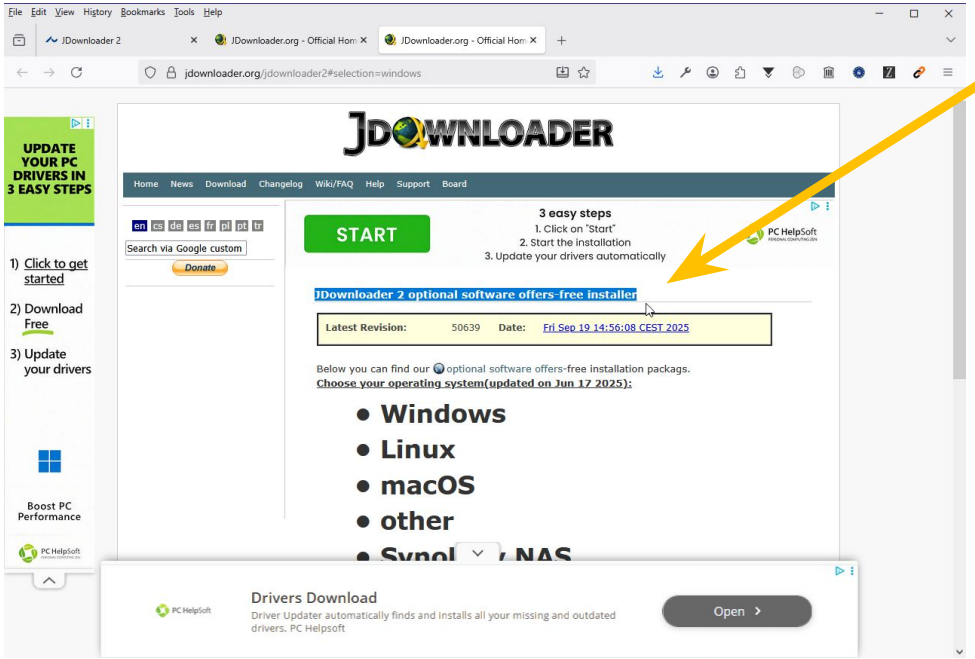


Make a note of the exact version offered for your OS (here it is x86 for Java 1.8).
This is a highly important step.

Installing JDownloader 2

Now go to: https://jdownloader.org/jdownloader2

You need a clean installer in order to avoid accidentally installing unwanted programs or malware.

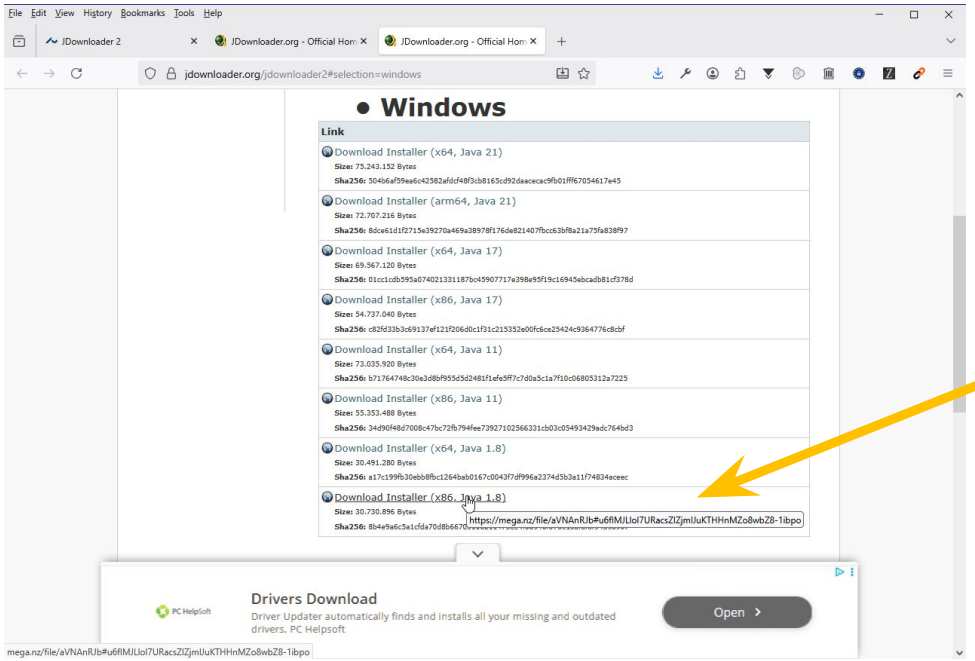


Please verify that the page you download from is the one with the text, ”offers-free installer” (highighted).

The URL is also found on the CDMM Tutorial page.

Installing JDownloader 2

Once again click on the OS that you need to install to.

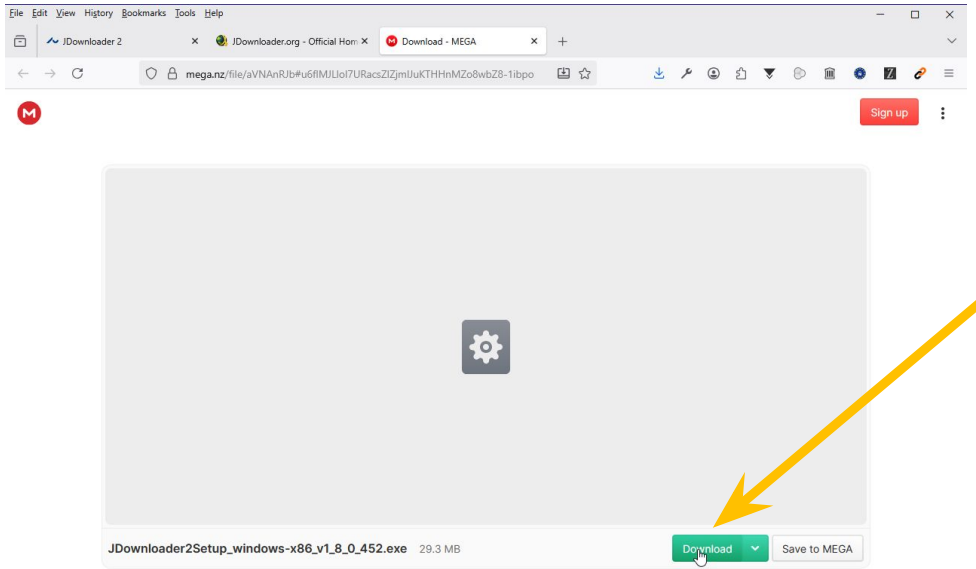


Find the installer version for your system that you made a note of before.

Clik on the link

Installing JDownloader 2

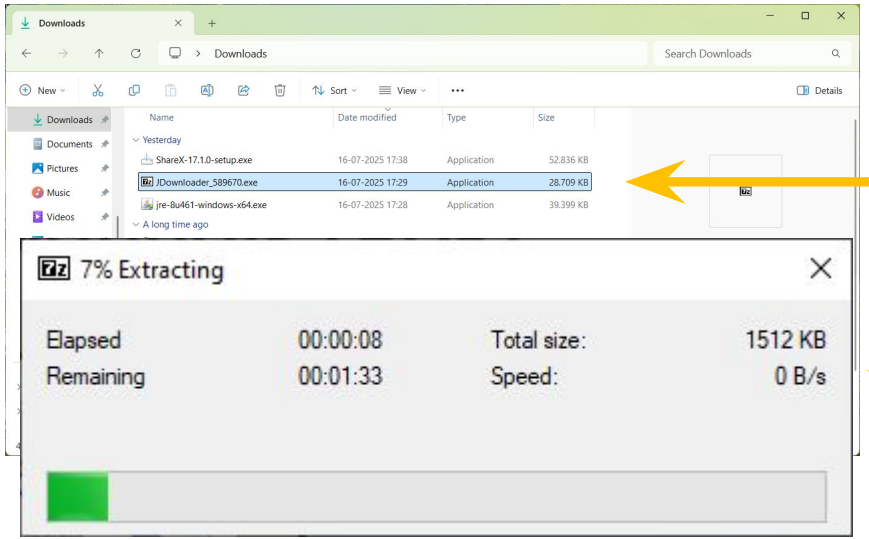
Clicking the link for the relevant installer will open an external hosting page



Clik on the download link and the download will begin

Installing JDownloader 2

Open the download location and run the installer. The file for Windows is a compressed file which will now extract.

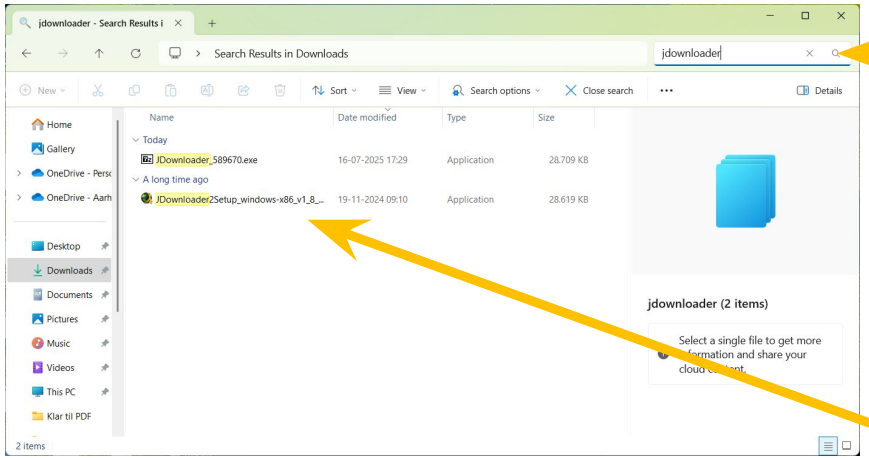


This is the downloaded file for Windows

Running it starts an extraction

Installing JDownloader 2

The extracted file is the actual installer that you now need to run, recognisable by name and icon.

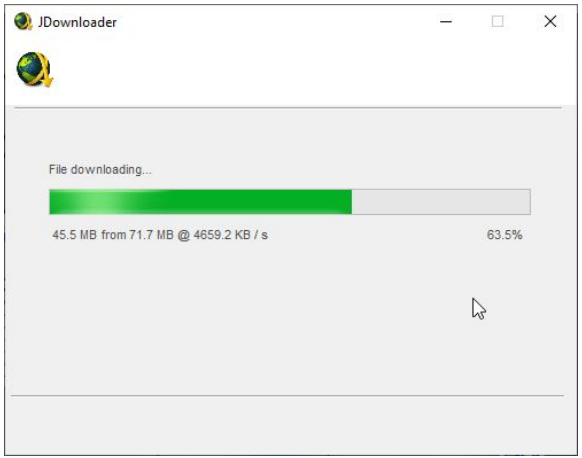


The timestamp for the installer may place it as an older file. If not immediately visible, search for Jdownloader

Run this extracted file

Installing JDownloader 2

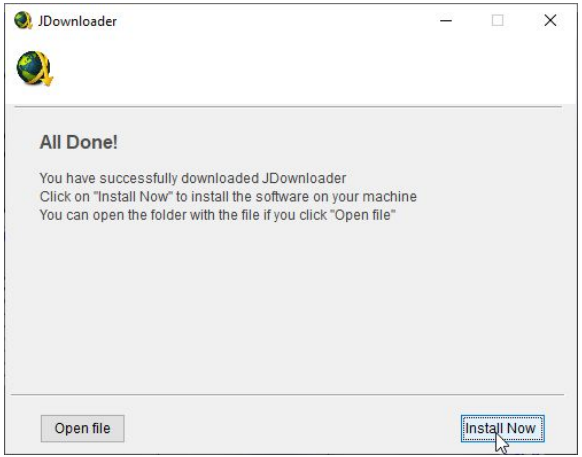
When running, the installer fetches the program files



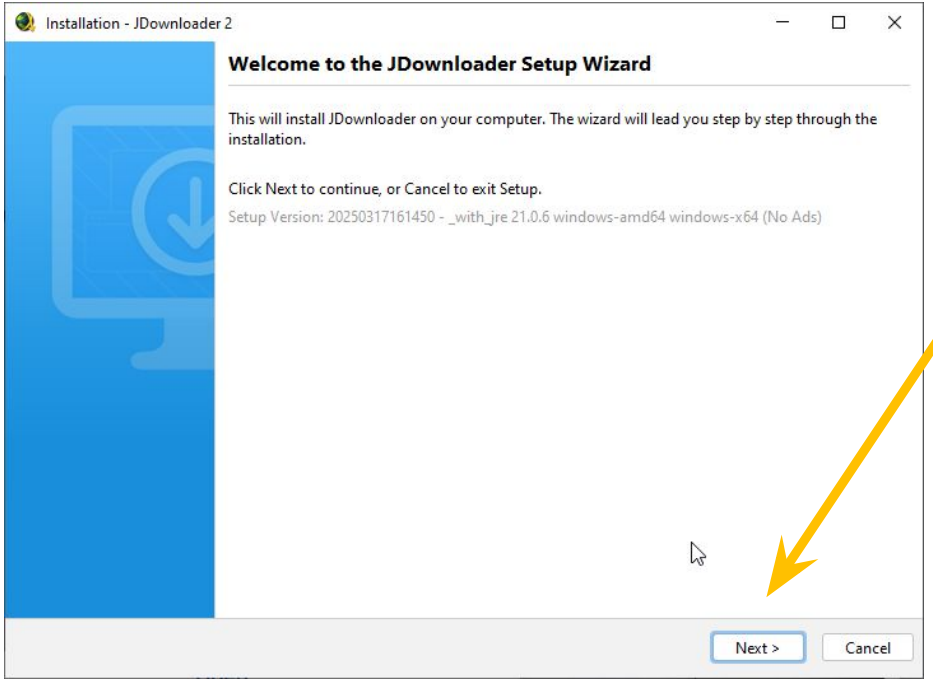
Important:
If you have accidentally downloaded an installer that is *not* 'offers-free', decline any offers for other programs or services.

Installing JDownloader 2

When all is ready the installation can be started



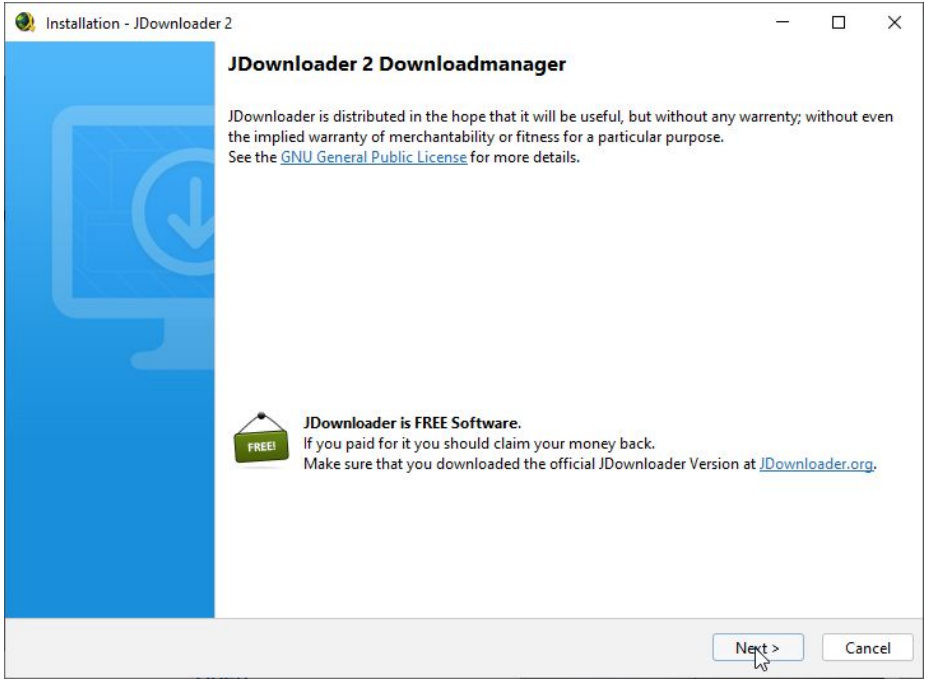
Installing JDownloader 2



The installation wizard starts

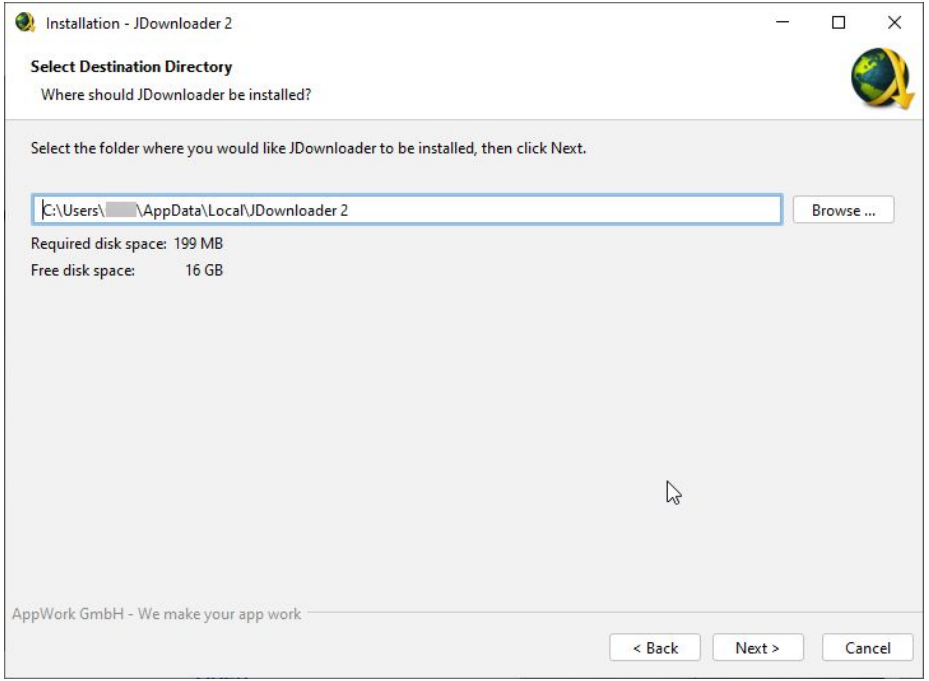
Click on ”Next”

Installing JDownloader 2



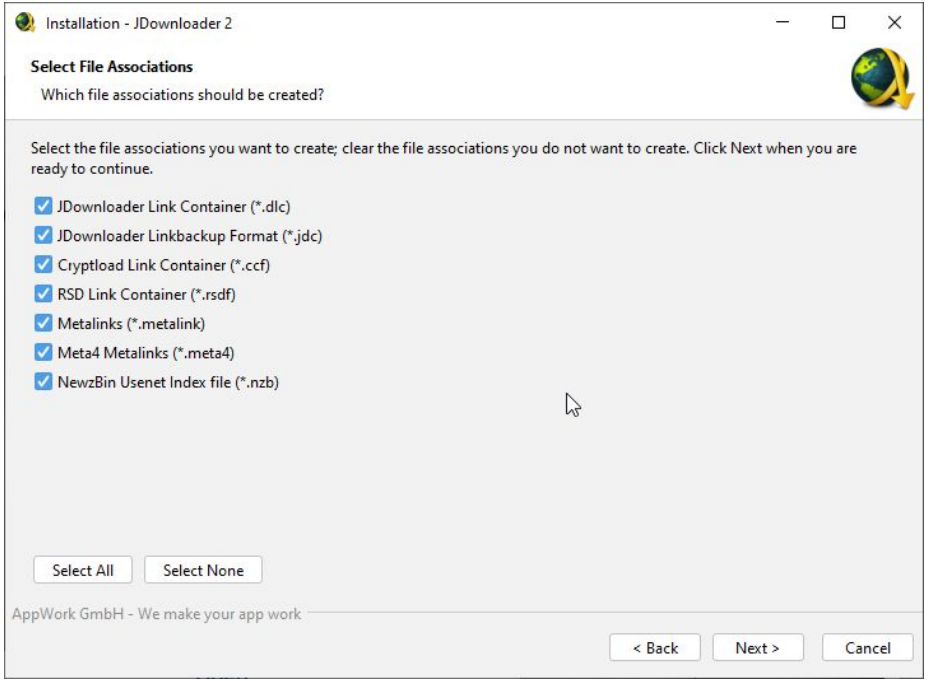
You will get this information window

Installing JDownloader 2



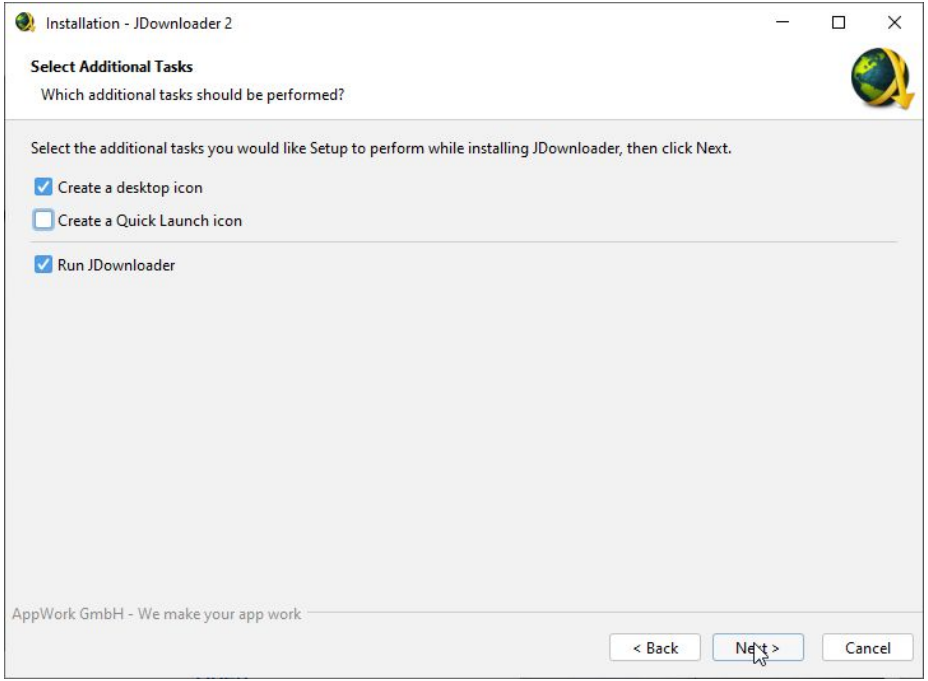
The installation directory is a default which can be changed

Installing JDownloader 2



File associations are for various download technologies. No change is needed unless you are specifically using a file type in another program.

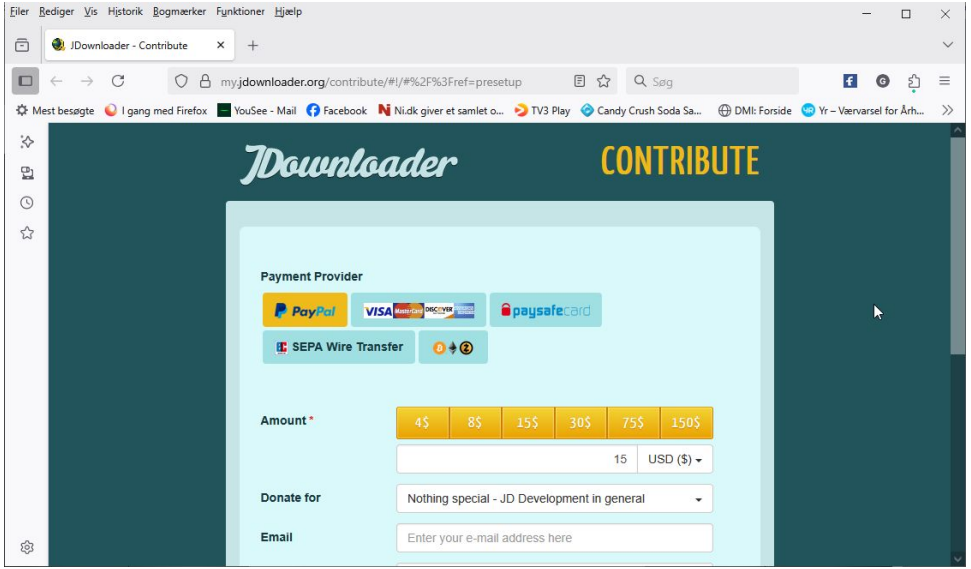
Installing JDownloader 2



Select or deselect ways of starting the applciation

Press ”Next” when ready

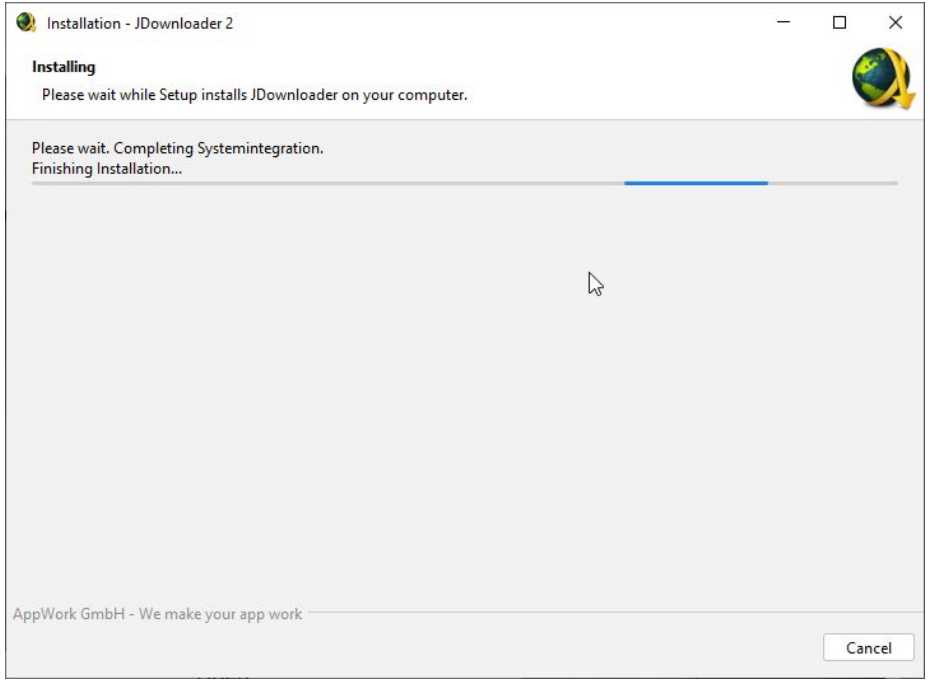
Installing JDownloader 2



When the installation starts, a browser window for donations will open

Do as you feel and close the window

Installing JDownloader 2



The installer will finish

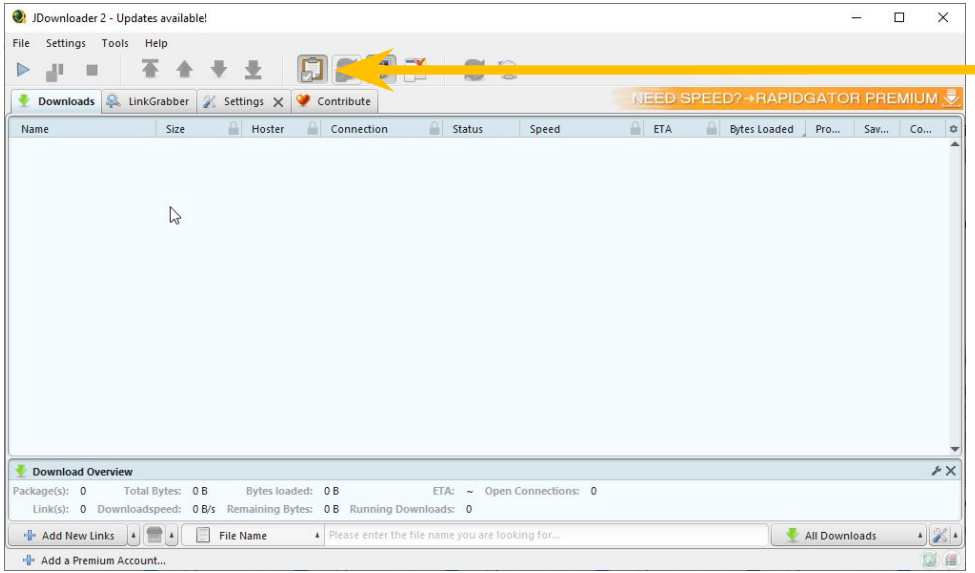
The program will start if this was maked in ”Additional tasks”, if not it may be started manually later

JDownloader 2 Basic Use

In the following, basic use of JDownloader 2 will be shown with YouTube videos as an example.

A few tips for general use, and comments on advanced use are also included.

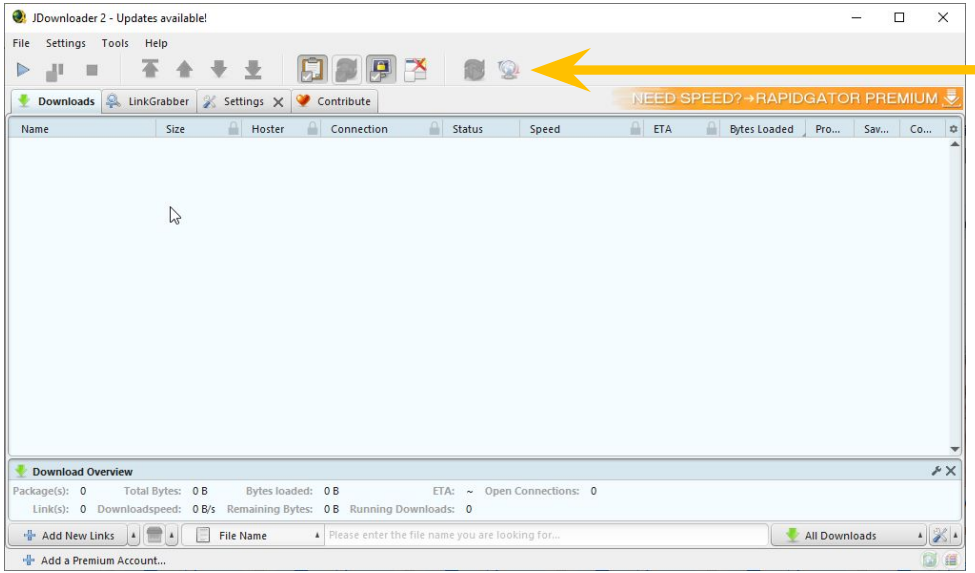
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



The Clipboad Observer is active by default

When a URL with downloadable content is copied, e.g. file URLs, video URLs, Clipboard Observer adds it to the download list (”Linkgrabber”)

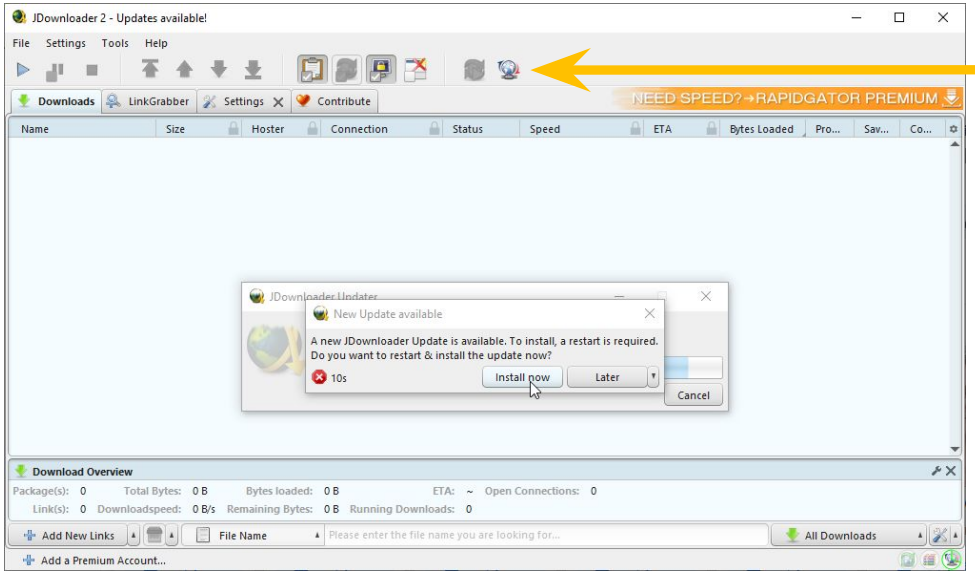
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



The update monitor blinks when new updates are available

JDownloader 2 frequently gets updates to keep funtionality up to par

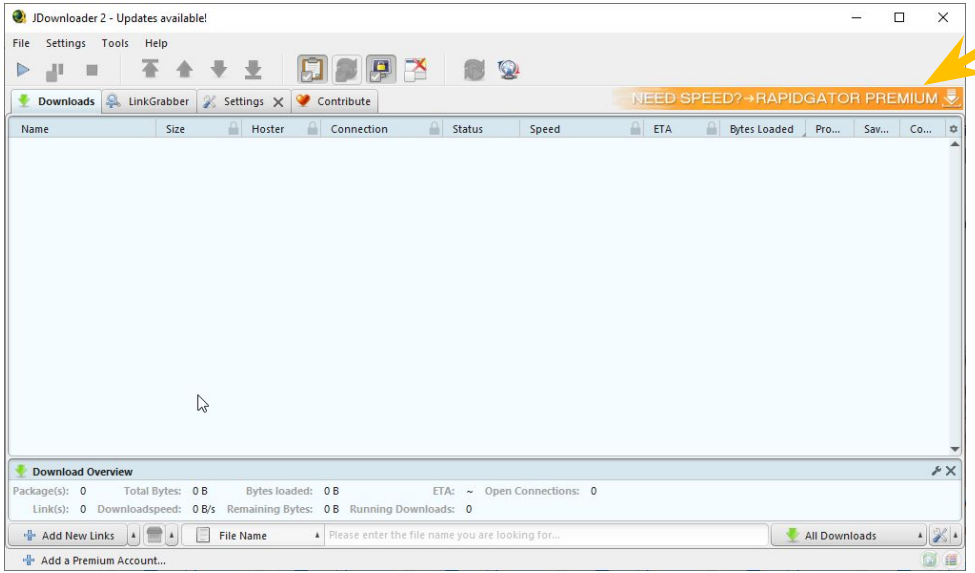
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Click to update (when not actively downloading)

Clicking ”Install now” will start the update and then restart the application

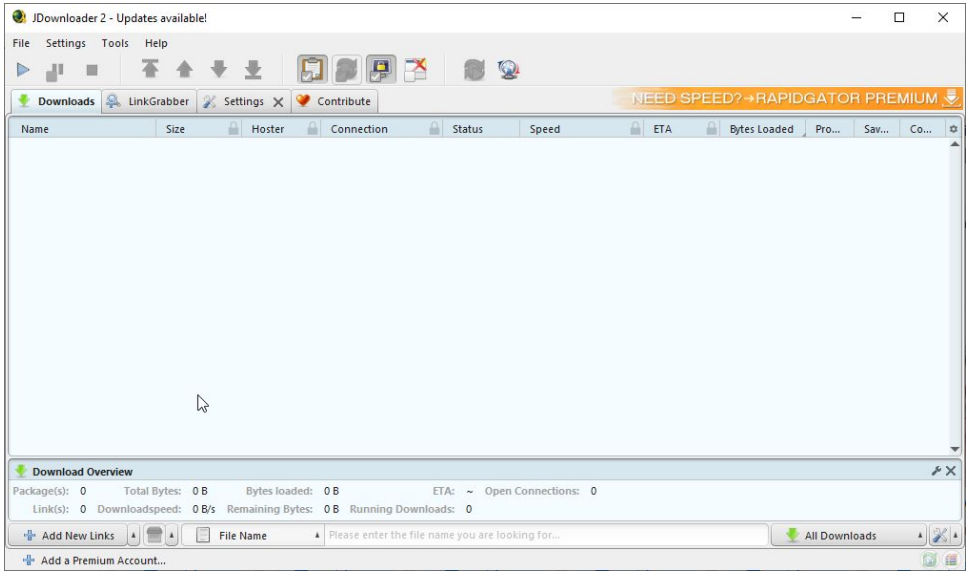
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



This is an ad for a specific filehosting service. It has nothing to do with program functionality

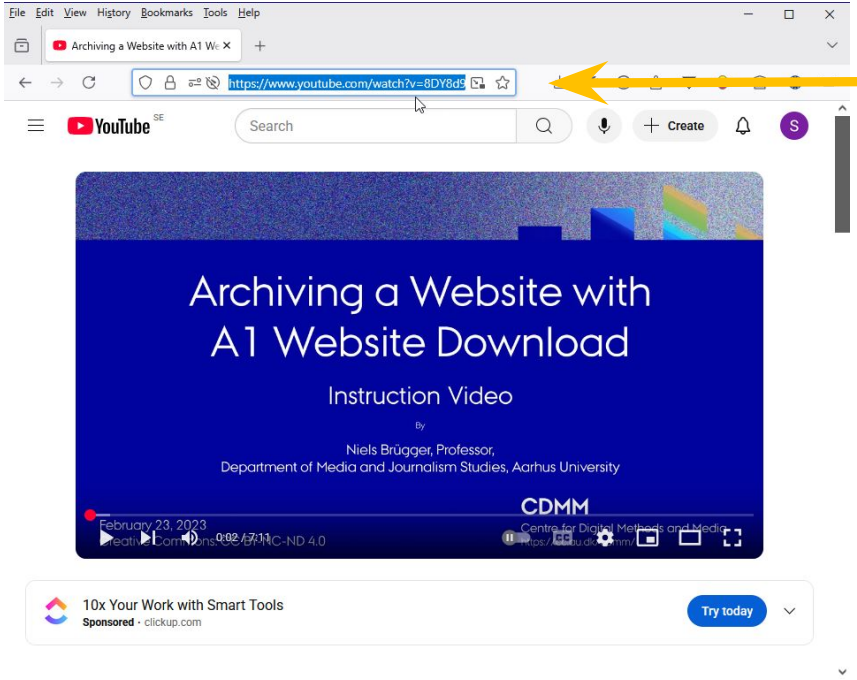
After updating the program is ready (almost)

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



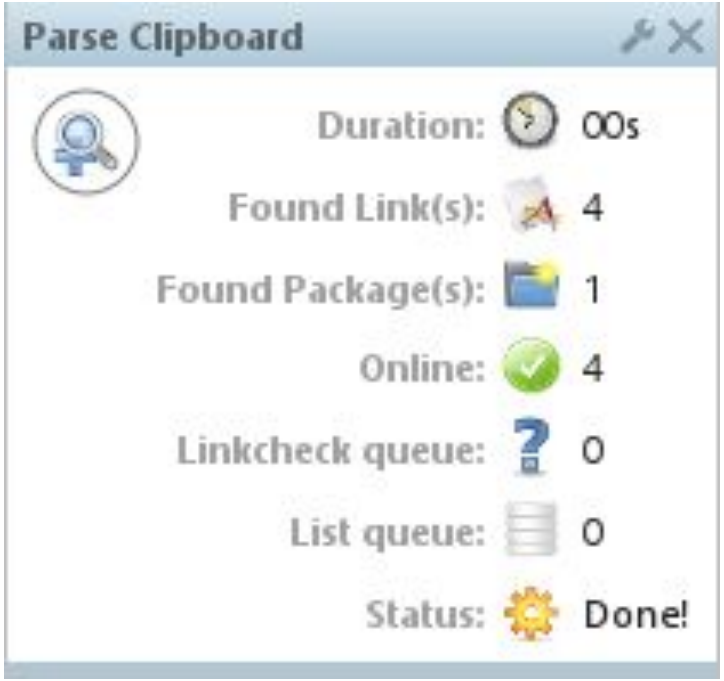
With the program ready it is time to try to download a YouTube video

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



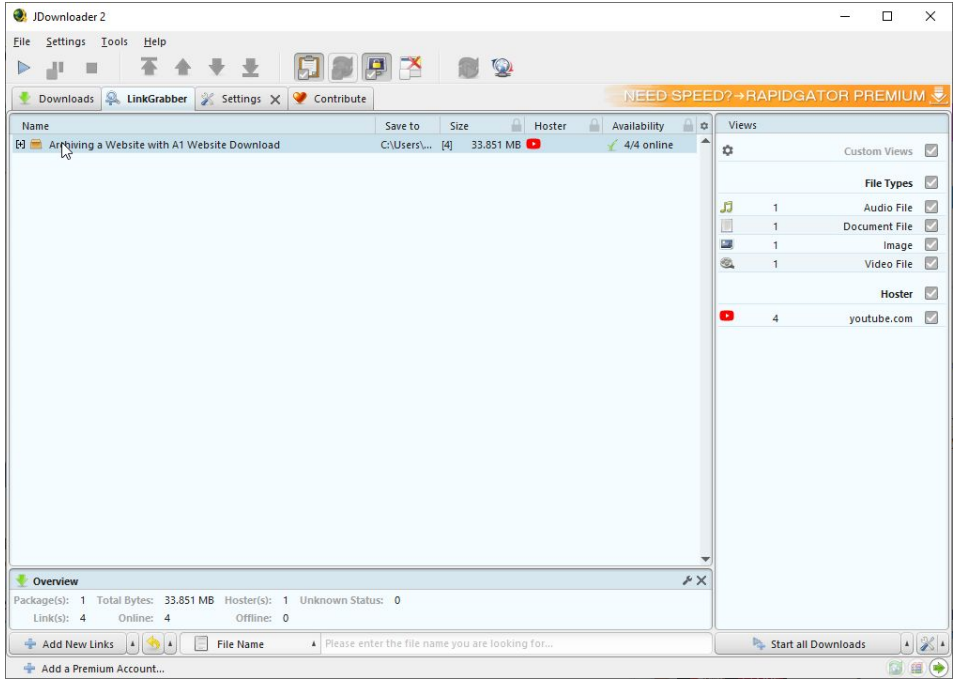
Copy the URL for a YouTube video while JDownloader 2 is running

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



When the URL is copied, a notification like this will normally pop up at the bottom right corner of the monitor

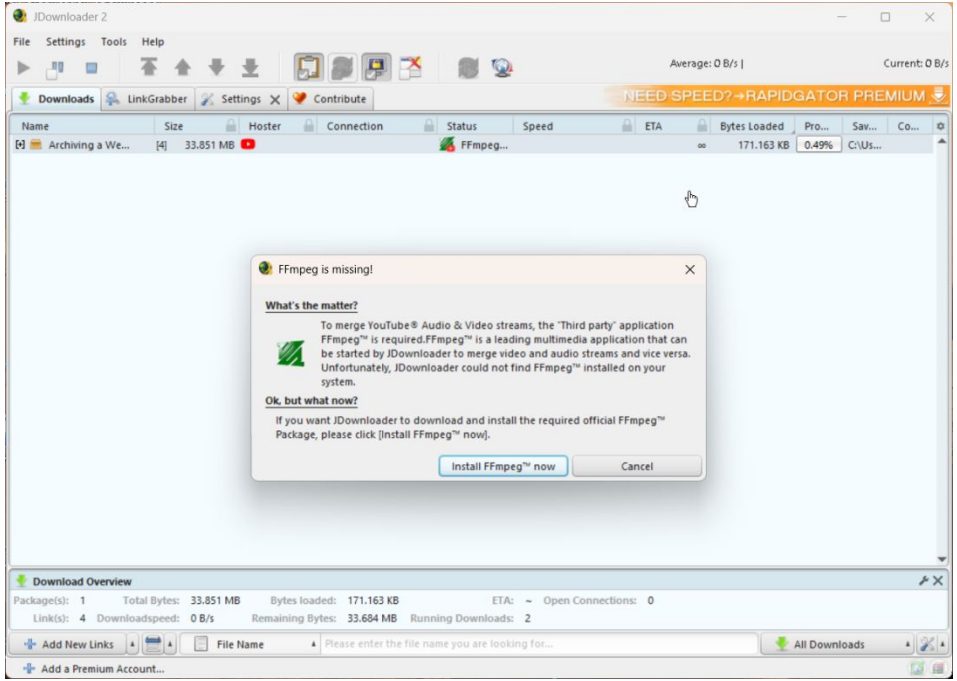
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Normally the download is now listed and can be started

However, the first time a video download is attempted a pop-up will notify you that a plugin is needed

JDownloader 2 Basic Use

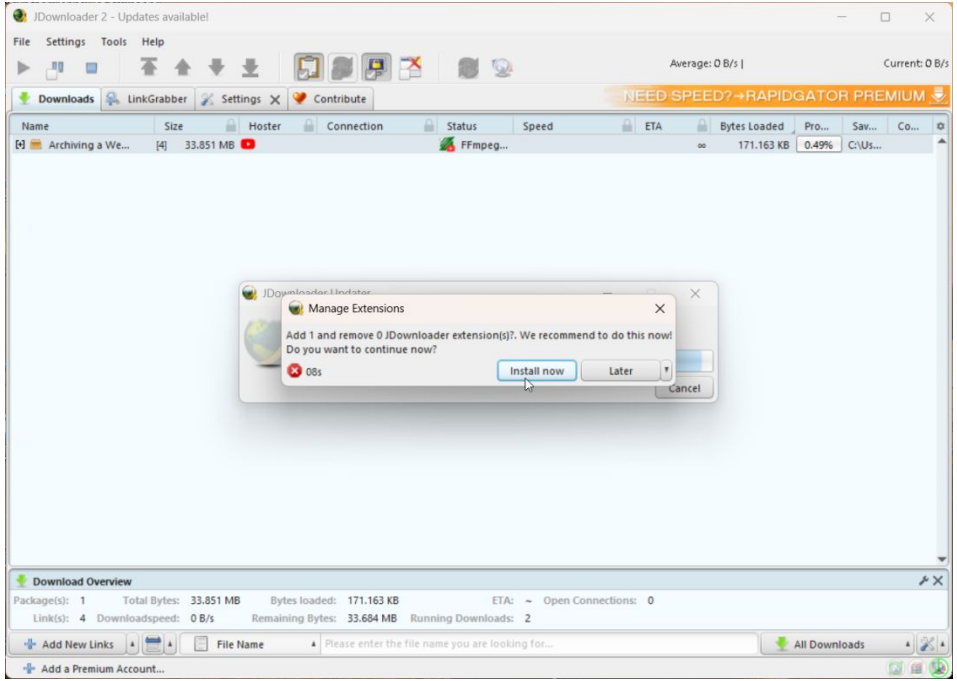


FFmpeg is a known video encoder

Click ”Install” to add the plugin to the program

This action is only needed once

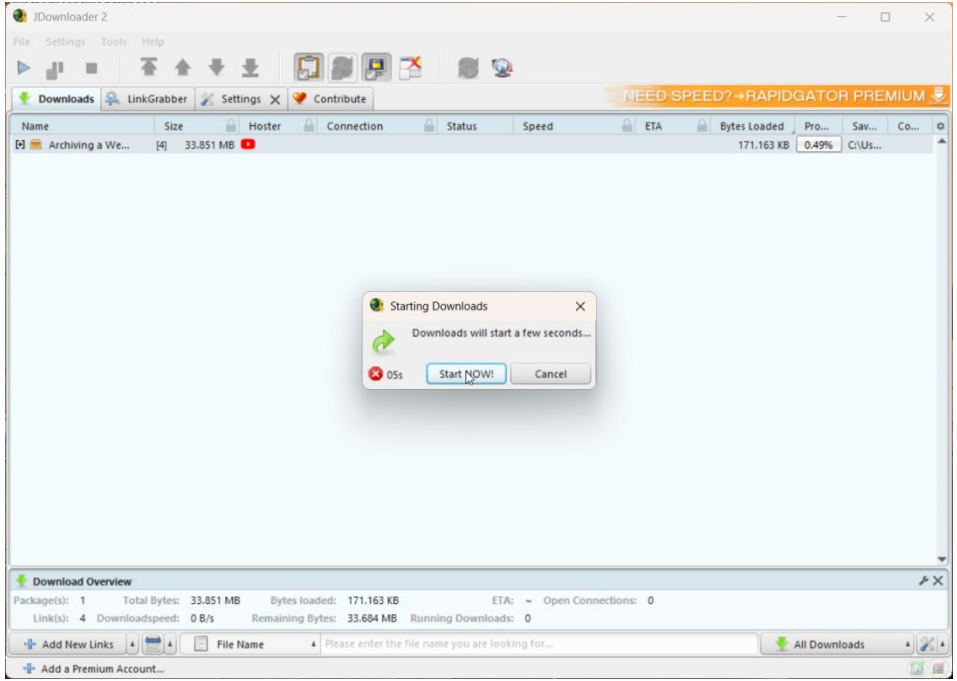
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Confirm ”Install now”

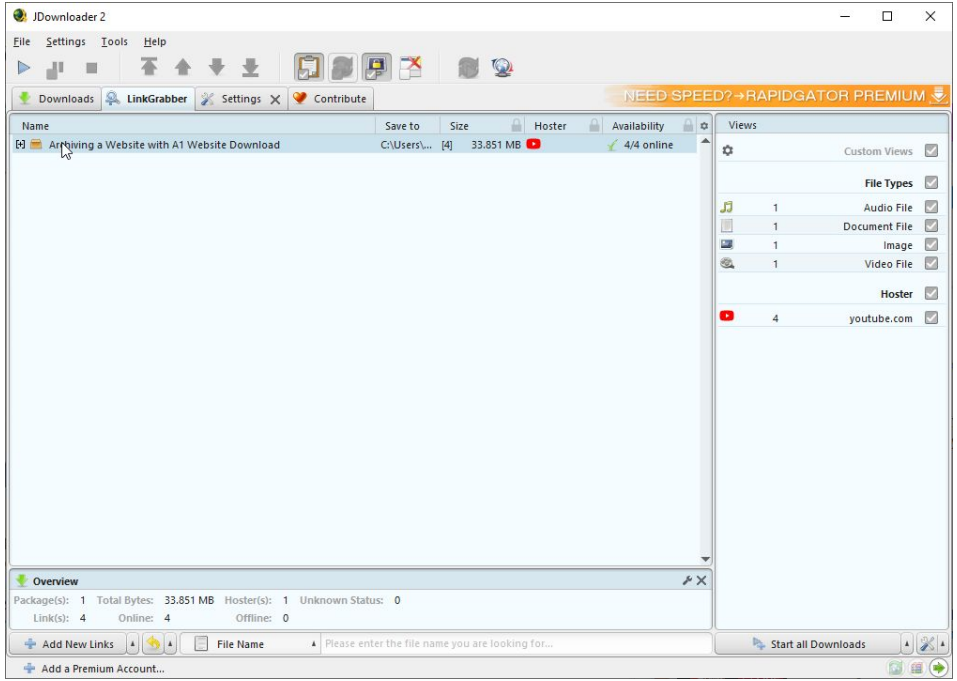
The add-on is downloaded, and JDownloader 2 restarts

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



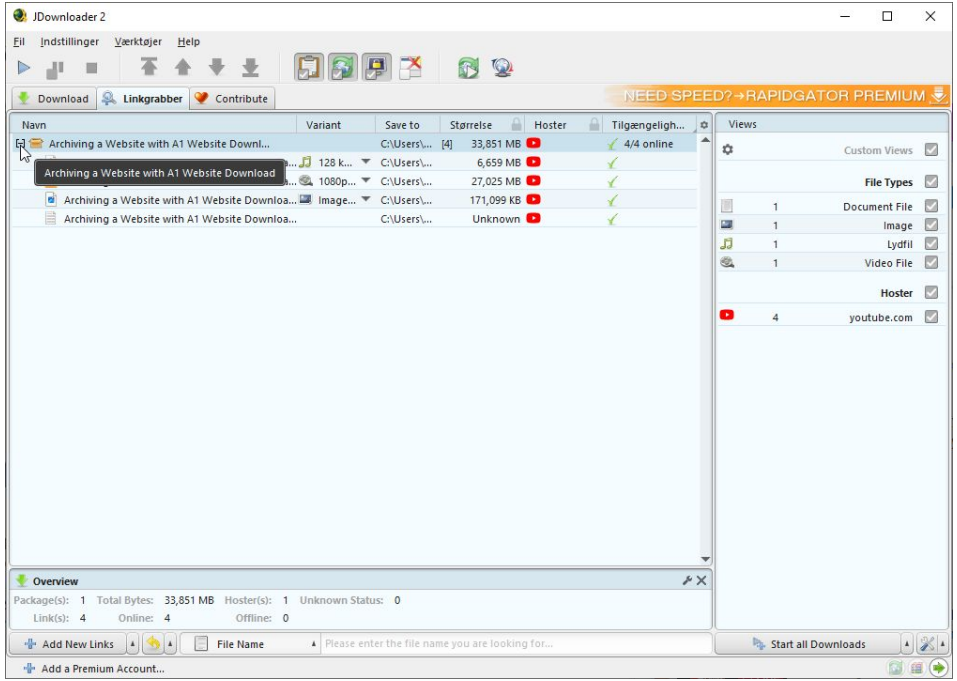
In this case, after adding FFmpeg, the application restarts with a download added to the ”Downloads” list, and will automatically start it

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



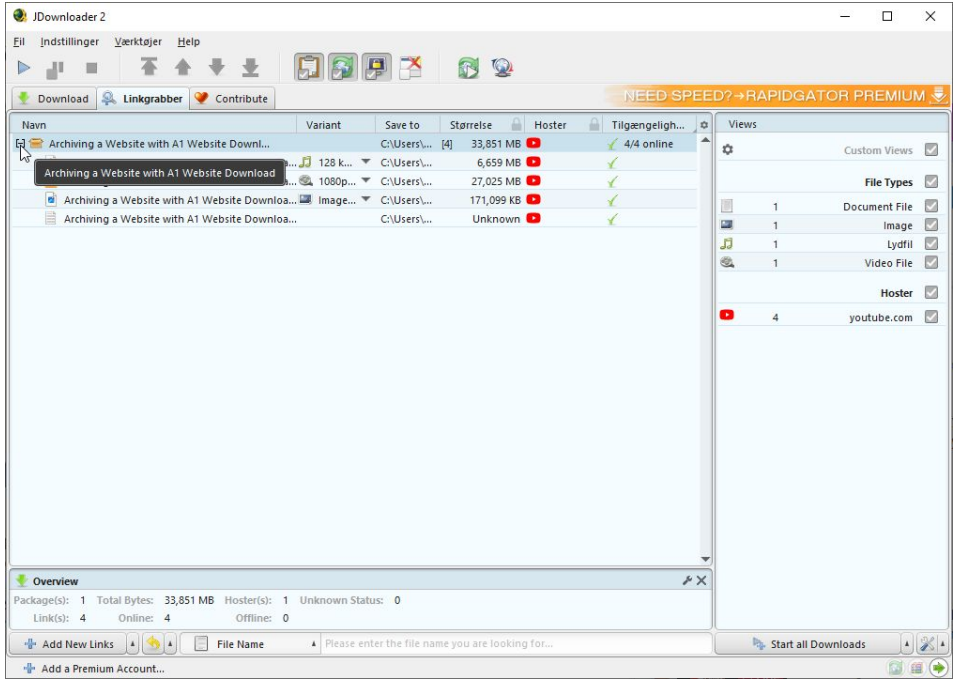
In daily use, after downloads are added to the ”Linkgrabber” tab, one can select and start downloads, and also deselect some of the files that were added from a URL

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



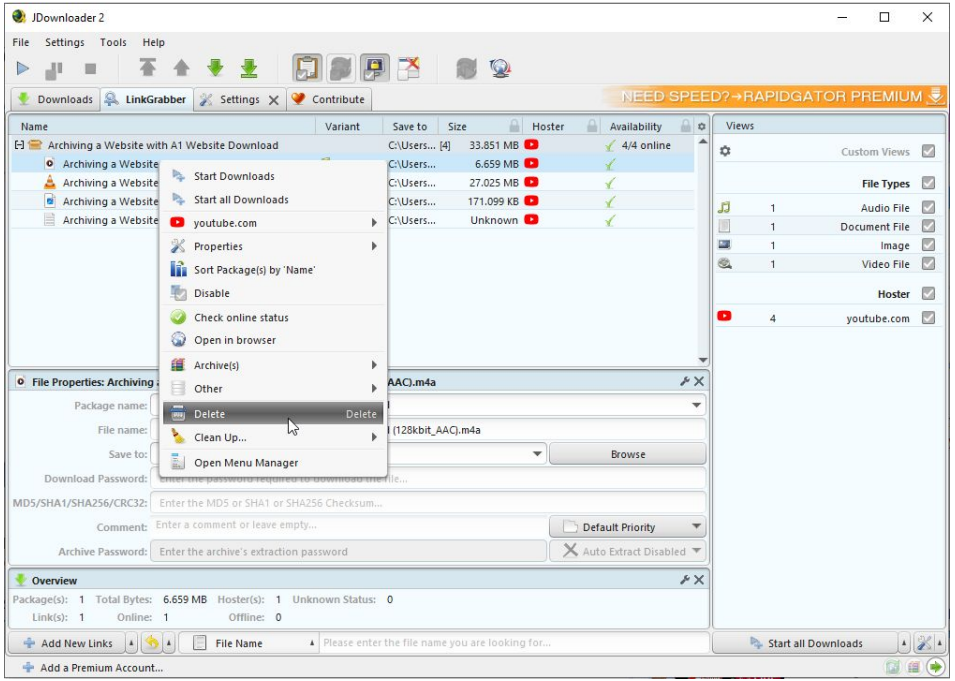
Open the folder that was added from as URL by clicking the ”+” in order to inspect what will be downloaded

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



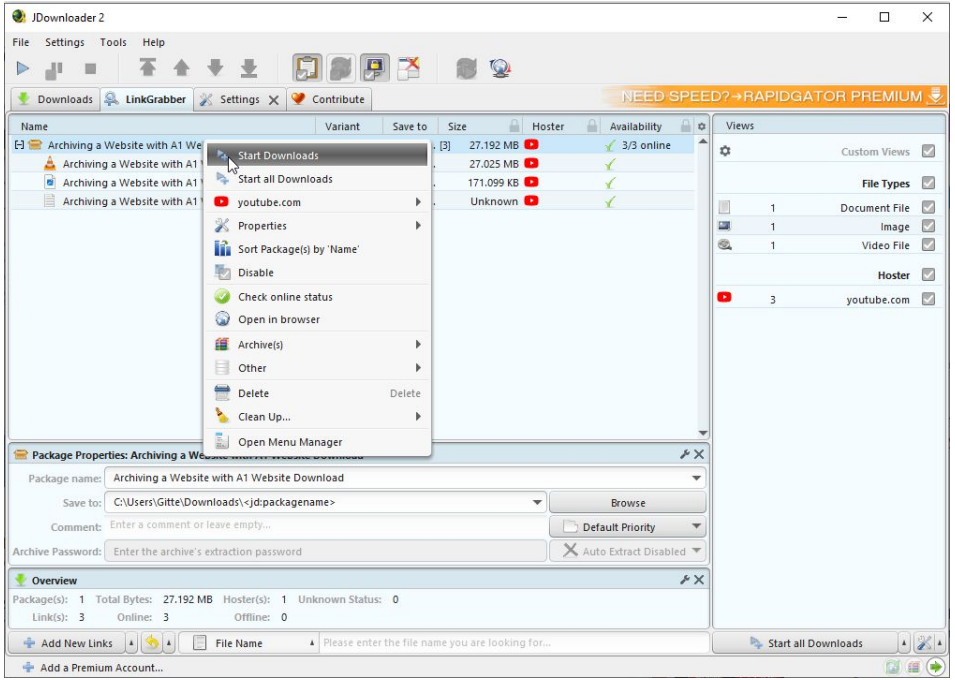
Jdownloader 2 adds all files available from from the URL, including informational text, subtitles, stills, video versions in varying qualities, and the audio track

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



One can deselect unneeded files, e.g. audio, or video versions in unneeded resolutions. Here, the audio file is deleted from the list (right-click in Windows or ctrl+click in Mac OS to open the context menu)

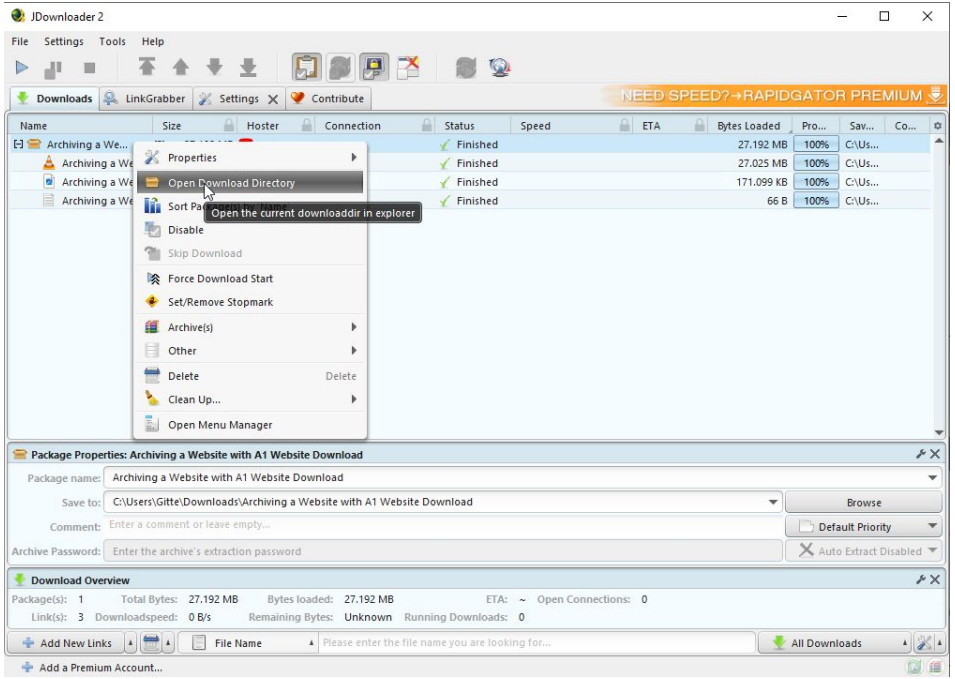
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Each added URL will get its own download folder

To start a download right-click and select ”Start Downloads”

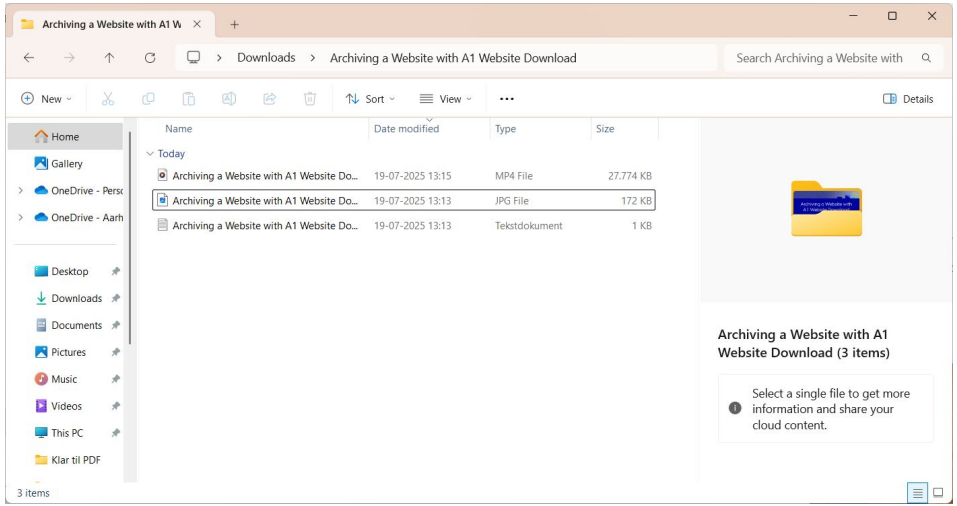
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Activated downloads will move to the ”Download” tab

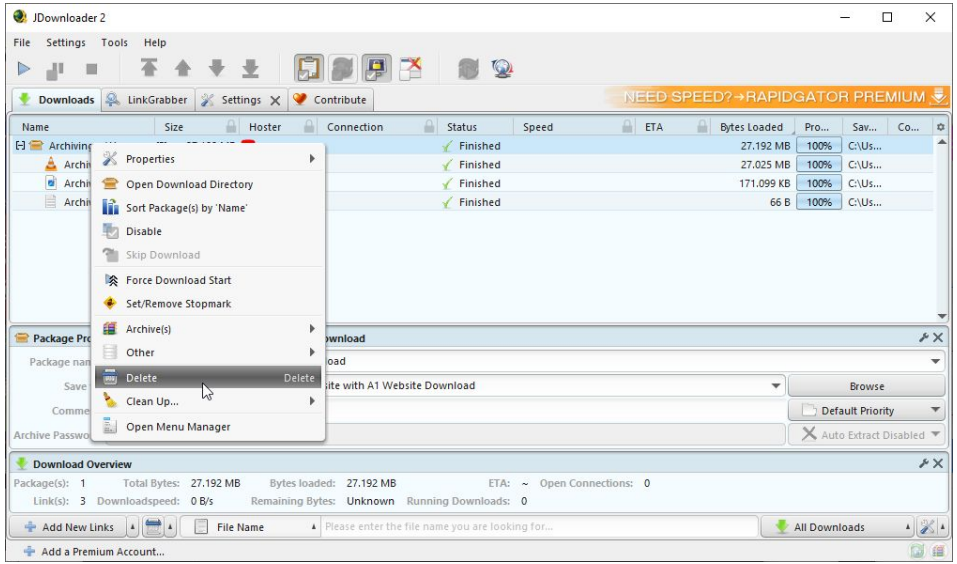
When finished the result can be accessed by right-clicking and opening the download folder

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



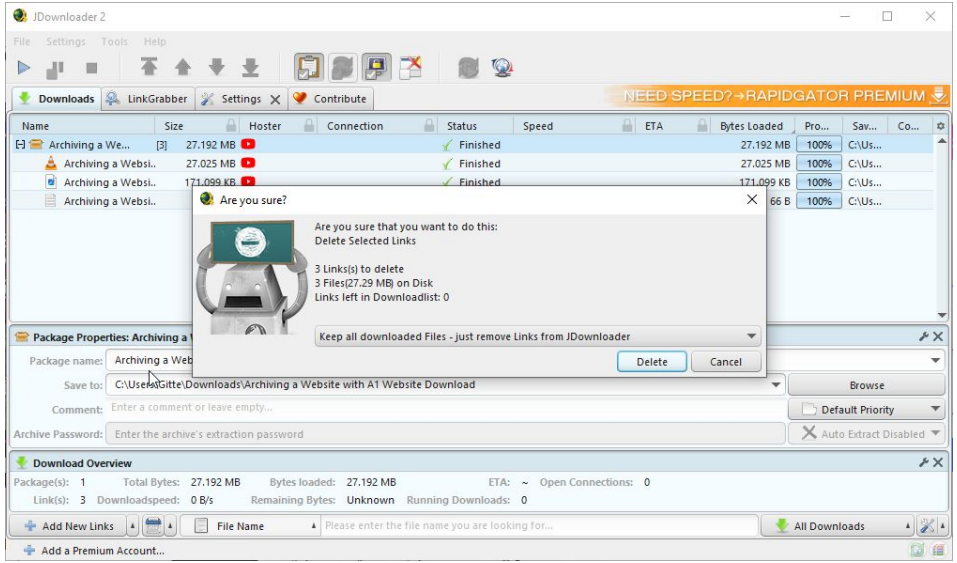
The downloaded files are located in a subfolder in the Downloads folder

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



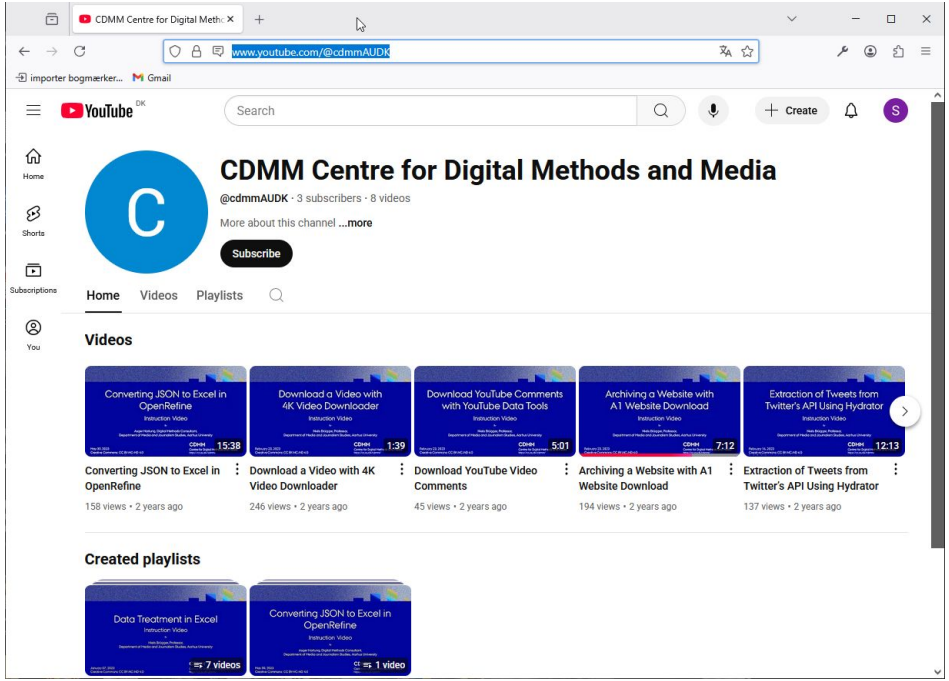
After a download has completed the links may be deleted from the ”Downloads” list

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



By default only the links are removed, thus cleaning the list

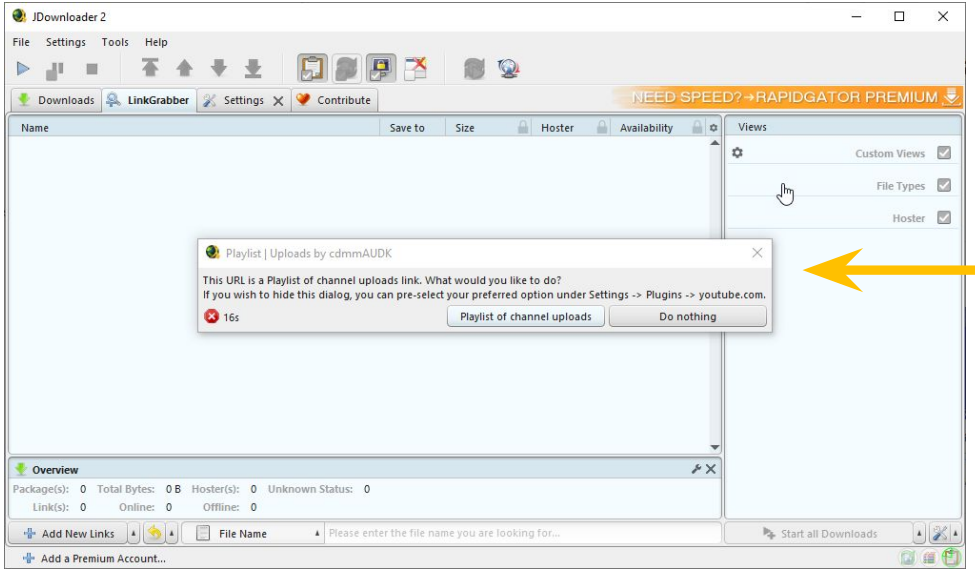
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



JDownloader 2 can also download entire channels or playlists

Here the URL for an entire channel is being copied

JDownloader 2 Basic Use

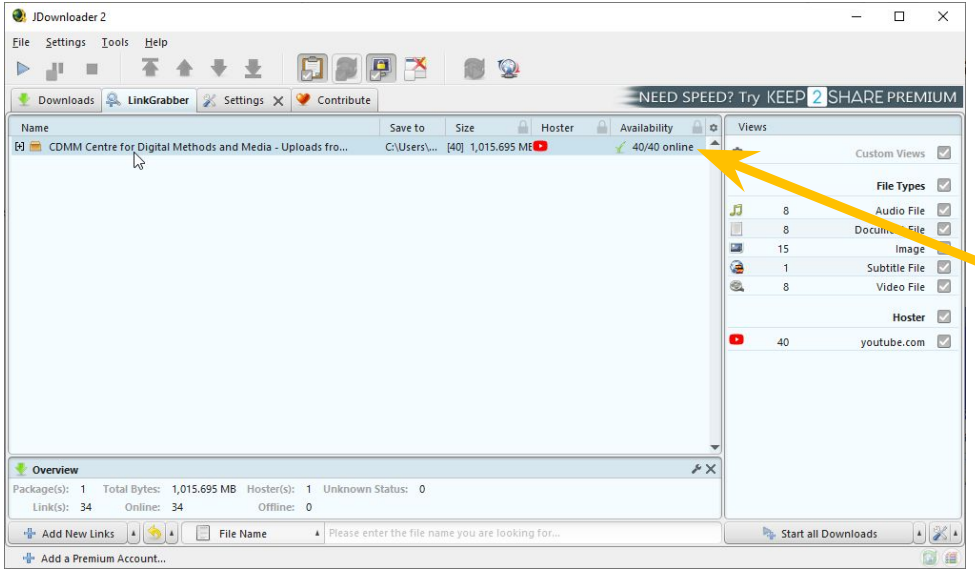


A pop-up will ask if you want to add all playlists from a whole channel

Specific playlists can also be added in this manner

Confirm in order to proceed

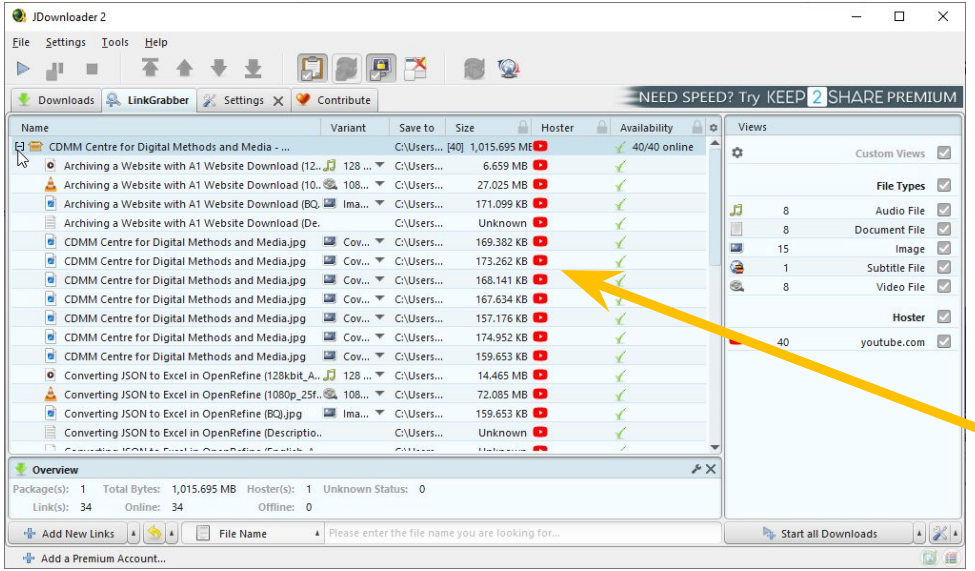
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Adding all files can take a while

Wait until number of files online stops counting up

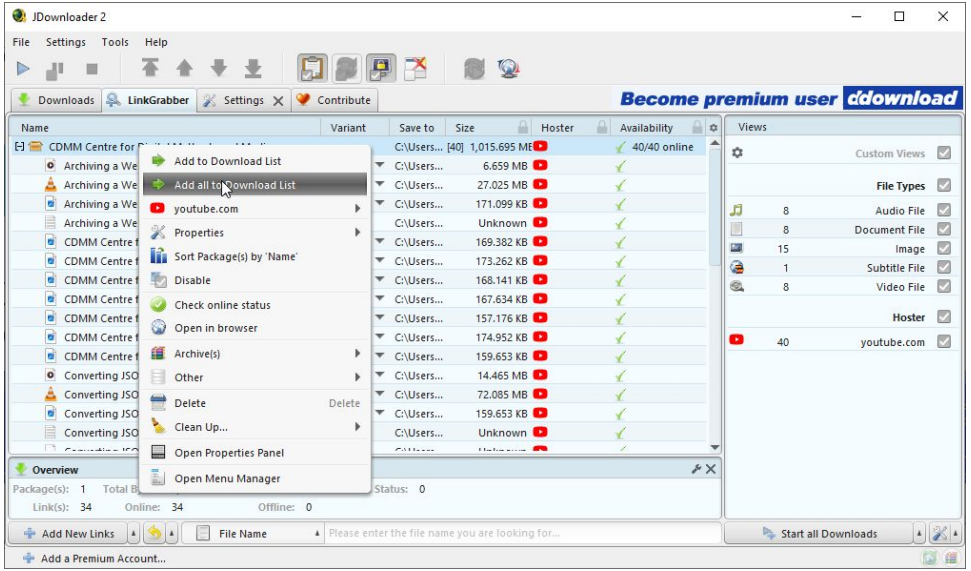
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Once again you can inspect the download list and deselect unnessary files

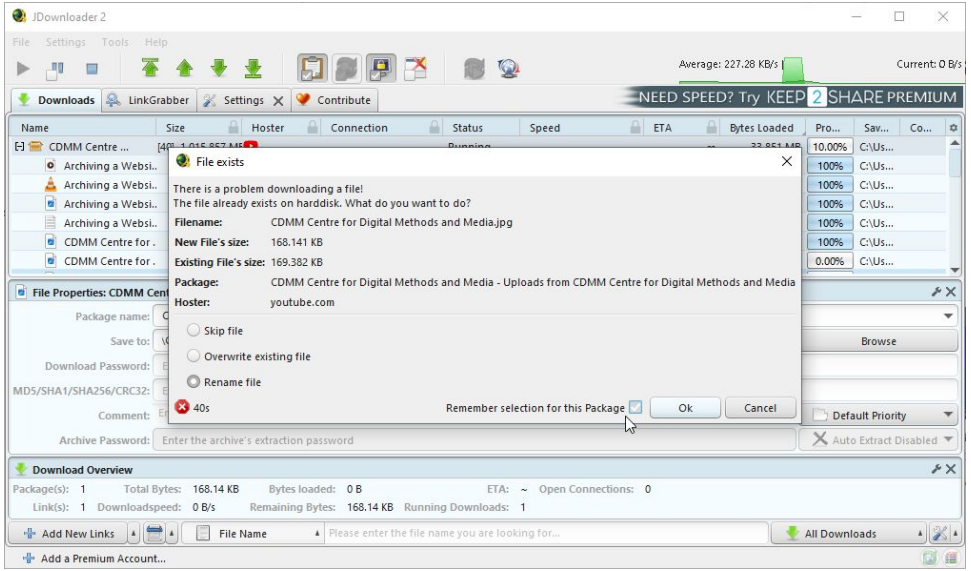
Notice several identically named image files listed here – but with different sizes

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Select ”Add all to Download list” to start channel download

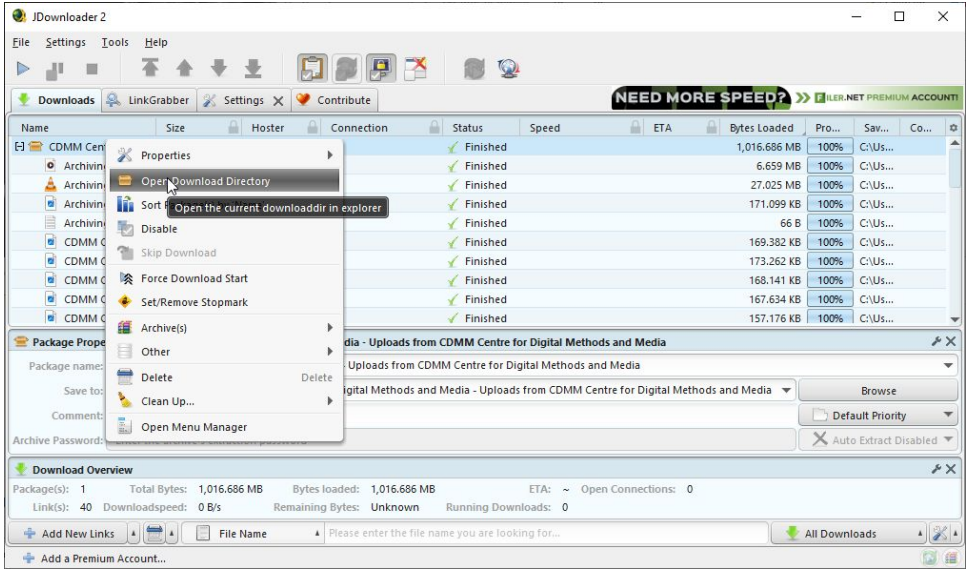
JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Several files have identical names but not the same size, and they are not identical

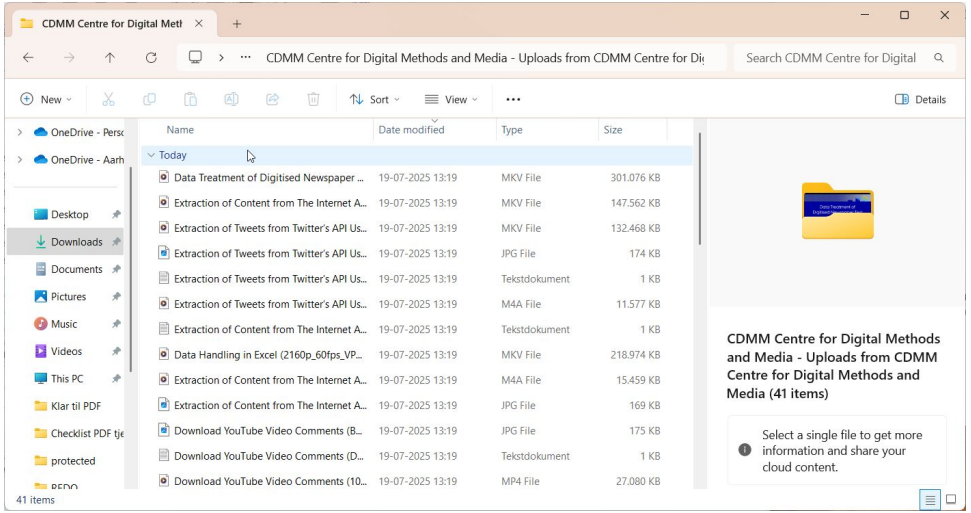
In order to get everything, mark ”Rename file” and ”Remember selection …”

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



Once again, when the downloads are finished you can open the directory file

JDownloader 2 Basic Use



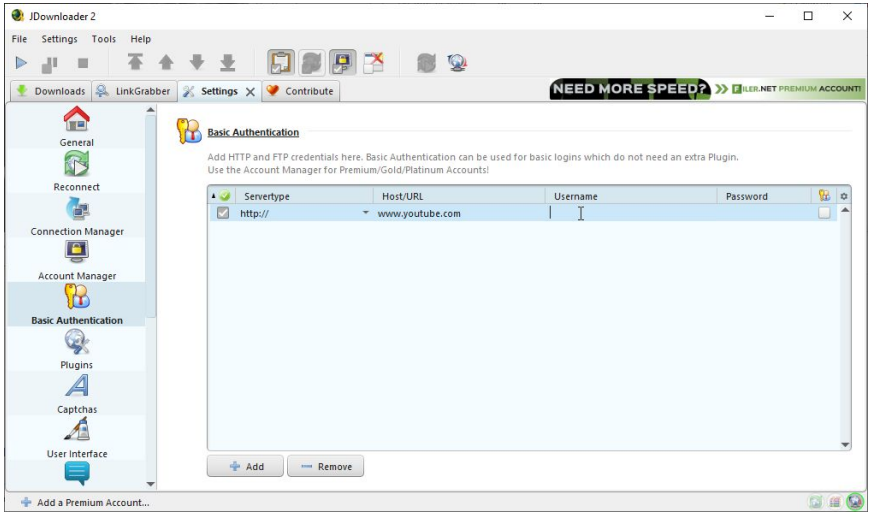
And once again the downloaded files are located in a subdirectory in your Downloads folder where you may inspect and sort them

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use

JDownloader 2 allows authentication for services, and registration for paid and privileged services.

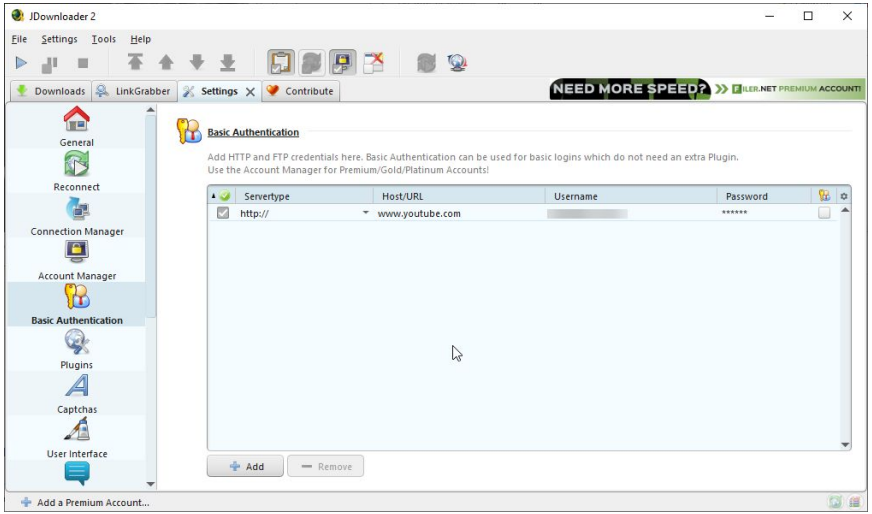
- The former is rarely necessary, but will be shown since it may sometimes help
- The latter is only relevant with privileged access and will only be touched upon

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use



In the ”Settings” tab one can add normal user identification in the form of service URL, user email, and password. Place the cursor in the relevant field to enter account credentials

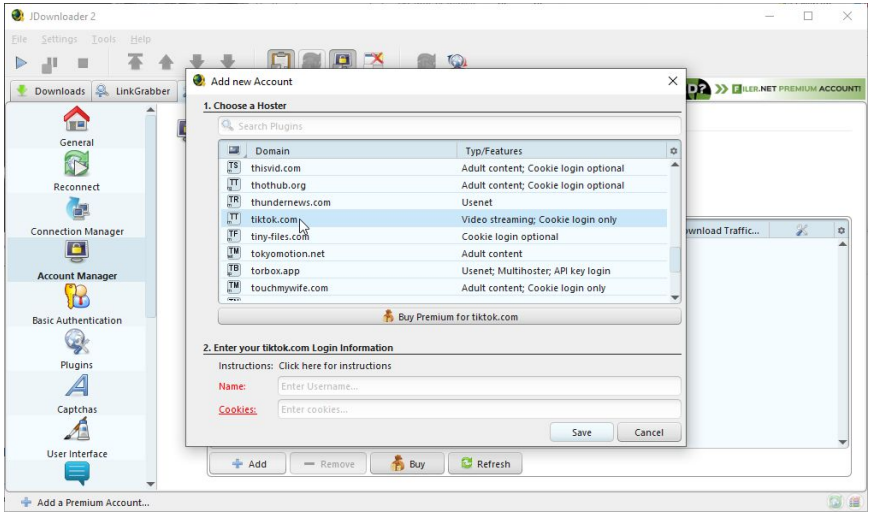
JDownloader 2 Advanced Use



Here a YouTube account has been entered

It may help in some rare cases, but the previous use cases worked fine without this

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use



The ”Account Manager” tap is dedicated to paid and privileged accounts

TikTok may look interesting, but it needs a cookie authentication

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use

For a detailed guide to cookie authentication, go to this URL:

https://support.jdownloader.org/en/knowledgebase/article/account-cookie-login-instructions

JDownloader 2 Advanced Use

”Account manager” is for paid and privileged accounts. One can find services such as Facebook and Vimeo listed. But functionality is dedicated to file downloads, and may not work to full satisfaction

However tempting, attempts to download accounts from TikTok resulted in this pop-up

But links for TikTok posts will work for fetching videos in JDownloader 2 without authentication

JDownloader 2 Final Words

JDownloader 2 is a powerful download manager, and can easily replace paid programs for many downloading purposes including YouTube. But it does not work for everything. Depending on your needs, other applications may be more appropriate for services where data extraction is at all possible

CDMM hopes that you will find this tutorial useful